Case information

Case ID	300009943
File Reference	AMH/1500/2/1
Name of Site	Tynreich Cottages, stone circle

Local Authority	Perth And Kinross		
National Grid Reference	NN 97624 53461		
Designation No. (if any)	SM1500		
Designation Type	Scheduled monument	**Current Category of Listing**	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	28/02/2014
Decision Date	22/02/2016

1. Decision

Amend: Update to entry in the Schedule

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was originally scheduled in 1964.

No previous amendments to the scheduling have taken place.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

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3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The monument was assessed for amendment as part of the S16 North scheduling project.

The site was visited on 9 May 2014.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The designation criteria are found in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), pp. 71-85. http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf

An assessment against the criteria for scheduling was carried out and the monument was found to continue to meet the criteria (see **Annex A**).

3.3 Other considerations

Designation as a scheduled monument remains an appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument.

The existing 1964 legal documents are not adequate to support definition of the extent of the scheduled area or capture the full potential of the monument.

There is a significant benefit in amending the existing scheduled monument designation. It will provide an updated legal document and map, allowing the monument to be defined accurately on the ground and shown on modern mapping. It will also ensure that an adequate area is designated, with appropriate exclusions.

Elizabeth McCrone
Head of Designations
Heritage Management
Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	James Bruhn, Senior Designations Officer, james.bruhn@gov.scot; 0131 668 0316

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

SM 1500 Tynreich Cottages, stone circle 55m SSW of

1. Description

The monument comprises the remains of a stone circle dating to the third or second millennium BC. The monument is visible as a slightly elliptical setting of six upright stones. It is located in the grounds of a garden centre on a terrace to the east of the River Tummel, at around 80m above sea level. The monument was first scheduled in 1964, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The stone circle has an internal diameter of around 6m and now comprises six, regularly spaced, upright stones standing between 0.7m and 1.5m in height. The stone on the S side of the circle is significantly larger than the rest. The stone circle is likely to have been a ritual monument, used over a period of time for both ceremonial and funerary purposes. The interior was levelled and partly excavated in 1855 when it was reported that a range of funerary remains were uncovered, including four 'huge urns … full of calcined bones', which have not survived.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, 20m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

2. Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria (SHEP, 2011) pp71-73**

* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge. It will form the basis of any new or updated scheduled monument record.
** A monument may be found to meet the scheduling criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the Schedule. The purpose and implications of scheduling are issues that require to be taken into account when assessing monuments for scheduling. Scheduling may not be the only, or the most appropriate mechanism, to secure the future of all sites, even those that may otherwise meet the criteria.

Cultural significance

Characteristic	Assessment
Intrinsic	
Condition in which monument survives	• The monument survives as a stone circle, approximately 6m in diameter, comprised of at least six monoliths. The 'circle' is in fact slightly elliptical, aligned N-S. The stones vary in height between 0.7m and 1.5m, with that on the S being significantly larger than the rest. • The interior of the stone circle was levelled and partly excavated in 1855. A contemporary account reports that four 'huge urns' were uncovered containing 'calcined bones'; the urns have not survived.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest	• The stones appear still to be located in their original setting which allows us to consider the form and function of the

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or research potential of the monument	monument within its primary landscape context. • Although the interior has been disturbed in antiquity, the stones themselves appear largely undisturbed. There is high potential for the survival of further well-preserved archaeological features and deposits beneath the topsoil, including human or animal remains, artefacts and palaeoenvironmental evidence relating to the construction and use of the monument. • These important archaeological deposits can inform our understanding of the contemporary population, when, how and why the standing stones were erected, the nature and date of the activities carried out in their vicinity, and the character of the local environment at the time of the erection and use of the stone circle. • The 1855 excavation was reported fully and is apparently reliable, which suggests that the results of any future work could be used to augment the results of the earlier work.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	• Such ritual monuments typically date to the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age (late 3rd to 2nd millennium BC) and often reveal multiple phases of use and activity. • Excavations at other stone circles have often revealed a complex development sequence. For example, excavation of the stone circle at Croft Moraig (SM 5024) in Perthshire found a number of constructional phases, including a concentric timber setting and two successive stone circles. Two burials were also found to be contemporary with the last phase of stone erection. • It is likely that further scientific investigation at Tynreich would enhance our understanding of the date and development of this site, which may be similarly complex.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	• The monument is likely to represent a sequence of construction, use and re-use over many generations. It is possible that it had a number of different functions over time, but is likely to have been predominantly a ritual or ceremonial monument, which was also or subsequently used for funerary purposes. • The stone circle may have also have acted as an astronomical or celestial marker of some sort.
Contextual	
Present rarity or representativeness of all or any part of the monument, assessed against knowledge of the archaeology of Scotland and of the region in which the monument occurs	• Standing stones and stone circles are a widespread class of monument across Scotland with some regional variations, such as the recumbent stone circles in NE Scotland. This stone circle is part of a larger group of small-diameter stone circles found in central Perthshire. They are often impressive for the size of the monoliths within a circle of such a small diameter.
Relationship of the monument to other monuments of the same or related classes or period, or to features or monuments in the vicinity. (Particularly important for monuments forming part of a widespread but varied class)	• This monument appears to be relatively isolated, though there are a number of broadly contemporary and later monuments in the wider landscape, including the henge at the Mill-Lands of Dalcapon (SM 9524). • There is good potential for comparative study on a local and national scale to enhance our understanding of the function of such monuments and the significance of their placing within the landscape.
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	• The monument is located on a terrace to the east of the River Tummel at about 80m above sea level. • It would have had uninterrupted views along the valley and is

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	likely to have been deliberately sited on this natural routeway.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	• The monument has the potential to enhance our understanding of social and ceremonial activities, and the beliefs of the prehistoric people who erected the standing stones.
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	• N/A
Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people	• The standing stones are labelled 'stone circle' on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.
Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events	• N/A

Assessment of national importance

Criteria	Assessment
Its inherent capability or potential to make a significant addition to the understanding or appreciation of the past	This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular, stone circles of the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. This well-preserved example has the capacity to further our understanding of the construction, function, development and siting of such ritual monuments within central Perthshire and across Scotland, and to inform our understanding of the contemporary landscape in which the monument was constructed. The loss of this monument would significantly impede our ability to understand the ritual landscape of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age Perthshire and the importance of cosmology and topography in the siting of such monuments.
Its retention of the structural, decorative or field characteristics of its kind to a marked degree	
Its contribution, or the contribution of its class, to today's landscape and/or the historic landscape	
The quality and extent of any documentation or association that adds to the understanding of the monument or its context	
The diminution of the potential of a particular class or classes of monument to contribute to an understanding of the past, should the monument be lost or damaged	
Its place in the national consciousness [a factor that may be considered in support of other factors]	

References

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Historic Environment Scotland: http://canmore.org.uk/ CANMORE ID 26313 (accessed on 14/10/15)

Coles, F R (1908) 'Report on stone circles surveyed in Perthshire - North Eastern section, with measured plans and drawings (obtained under the Gunning Fellowship)', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 42, 116-21, fig 23.

Thom, A (1967) Megalithic sites in Britain, 140, no P 2/2. Oxford.

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